

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2 and 10 without prejudice to their underlying subject matter or possible continued prosecution in a continuation application.

Please amend claims 1, 3 through 9, 11, 13, 14, and 23 as follows.

1. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, wherein:

- (a) said compensator comprises a layer of a birefringent material having an optical symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and a azimuthal angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer;
- (b) said birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material; [and]
- (c) each of [(i) A] said tilt angle [ϕ , relative to the plane of the layer,] and [(ii) an] said azimuthal angle [θ , relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, said tilt angle limited to values between approximately 25 degrees and approximately 65 degrees; and
- (d) said variations in tilt angle and azimuthal angle being defined by a combination of molecular orientations of said polymerized nematic material and said unpolymerized nematic material.

3. (Amended) The compensator of [claim 2] a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7, wherein said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix that defines said variation of the optical symmetry axis, said polymer matrix comprising polymerized nematic material.

1 4. (Amended) The compensator of [claim 2] a specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7, wherein
2 said layer of birefringent material comprises a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix
3 including polymerized nematic material and unpolymerized nematic material having
4 respective molecular orientations which, in combination, define said variation of the
5 optical symmetry axis.

1 5. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display,
2 said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical
3 symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an
4 azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein
5 [an] said azimuthal angle θ , relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said
6 optical symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer, and said tilt angle is
7 substantially fixed at an angle between approximately 25 degrees and approximately 65
8 degrees, along an axis normal to said layer.

1 6. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display,
2 said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical
3 symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an
4 azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein
5 [a] said tilt angle ϕ , relative to the plane of the layer, of the optical symmetry axis] varies
6 along an axis normal to said layer, and said azimuthal angle is substantially fixed along
7 an axis normal to said layer.

1 4. (Amended) [The compensator of claim 2] A compensator for a liquid crystal display,
2 said compensator comprising a layer of a birefringent material having an optical
3 symmetry axis defined by a tilt angle, measured relative to the plane of the layer, and an

4 azimuthal angle, measured relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, wherein
5 each of [(i) a] said tilt angle [ϕ , relative to the plane of the layer,] and [(ii) an] said
6 azimuthal angle [θ , relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, of said optical
7 symmetry axis] varies along an axis normal to said layer.

1 8. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a
2 plurality of layers, each layer [comprising a birefringent material having an optical
3 symmetry axis which varies along an axis normal to said layer] in accordance with a
4 specified one of claims 5, 6, or 7.

1 9. (Amended) [The] A compensator [of claim 8] for a liquid crystal display, said
2 compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer in accordance with a specified
3 one of claims 5 or 7, wherein]
4

- 5 (1) the optical symmetry axis of each layer has an azimuthal angle [θ] which varies
6 along an axis normal to said layer; and
7 (2) the optical symmetry axes of adjacent said layers vary azimuthally in a positive
sense and a negative sense respectively.

1 11. (Amended) [The] A compensator [of claim 10] for a liquid crystal display, said
2 compensator comprising a plurality of layers, each layer in accordance with a specified
3 one of claims 6 or 7, wherein the tilt angles of adjacent said layers vary in a positive
4 sense and a negative sense respectively.

12. The compensator of claim ~~8~~¹⁸, wherein (1) the birefringent material in each said layer includes a plurality of moieties of a liquid crystal material, and (2) a specified said layer aligns the moieties of liquid crystal material in an adjacent said layer.

24. (Amended) A compensator for a liquid crystal display, said compensator comprising a plurality of layers, wherein:

- (a) each layer comprises a birefringent material including a plurality of moieties of a liquid crystal material;
- (b) the optical symmetry axis of each layer has a respective tilt angle $[\phi]$, relative to the plane of the layer, which varies along an axis normal to the layer, with the tilt angles of adjacent said layers varying in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively;
- (c) the optical symmetry axis of each layer has a respective azimuthal angle $[\theta]$, relative to a reference axis in the plane of the layer, which varies along an axis normal to said layer, with the azimuthal angles of adjacent said layers varying in a positive sense and a negative sense respectively; and
- (d) a specified said layer aligns the moieties of liquid crystal material in an adjacent said layer.

14. (Amended) The compensator of a specified one of claims [2] 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, or 18 [or 8], further comprising one or more A-plate layers.

23. (Amended) A liquid crystal display for viewing at various angles with respect to a normal axis perpendicular to the display, comprising: